

University of the Future

Transcript

Prof Hazel Rymer

These days, students can actually study everything, without a book.

Claire Hedges

The OU was one of the first institutions in the world to actually set up to be a distance learning education. So it's not something that we do as an extra. We have forty years of experience of doing that, now to two hundred thousand students across the world.

Claudia Rosani-Allen

I work full time and I've got family so The Open University definitely fits in with my life a lot better than, say if I had a commitment to go to a bricks and mortar university.

Lesley-Anne Long

That boundary-less way of working that The Open University has pioneered is now actually placing it in central stage on a global platform.

Prof Martin Weller

The OU's evolving to take advantage of new technologies, particularly things round social networking and delivering content online, and it's much more of a digital university.

Claudia Rosani-Allen

You get things like podcasts and videos. And you could put them on your MP3 player and you'd listen to the podcasts while driving to work or you could watch a video when you're taking a train. So there's always something that you can take with you.

Prof Martin Weller

We developed some Facebook applications and we didn't want to be, go in there as a kind of big brother, we wanted to go in there and give students tools that would help them find each other.

Peter Lloyd

We've been able to create online environments for students to study, do the work in their own homes and upload, really share their work with other students.

Male student (Frankfurt)

And the support you have by phone, by emails, all this makes it special; it's as if they are by your side.

Female student (St Lucia)

It's all about change, it's all about innovation, it's all about keeping up and the OU's already there and doing it.

Man (St Johannesburg)

Being at the forefront of technological innovation where the campus' standing is fantastic.

Claudia Rosani-Allen

You go to the online forum and there will always be a student there, probably with the same question you have, or with the answer which is even more useful. So it's even better than a normal university 'cause there's always somebody who can give you some help. If you can't find help it's because you haven't looked hard enough.

Lesley-Anne Long

There's nobody else that can do scale and quality in the way that the Open University can and I think when you add to that the innovation in technology that we're pioneering, then it makes the University an incredibly special organisation.

Prof Hazel Rymer

Now the OU can get to you wherever you are.

Claudia Rosani-Allen

Because everything's completely portable all I need is my laptop and I could be outside in the garden with the beautiful weather.

Prof Hazel Rymer

It's a much, much more effective teaching system.

Male student (St Johannesburg)

It's probably been the best experience study. Everything is in your room, in your space, in your time. It's an absolute pleasure.

Male student (Frankfurt)

For anybody who's hearing this, it might sound for a paid commercial but if they want to cross check they can contact me in person and I can tell them that I'm not working for Open University, I'm just telling them my experience.